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Press office: +389 (0)2 308-0446
Cell phone: +389 (0)70 323-807
Email: talbor@usaid.gov
<http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

PRESS RELEASE

U.S.-supported workshop on Bologna Process focuses on Macedonia's preparations for inclusion in European Higher Education Area

Fifty prominent educators from Skopje, Stip and Bitola recently spent three days exploring European curriculum design and its implications for Macedonia's educational institutions at a workshop funded by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), a part of the U.S. Mission to Macedonia.

The workshop focused on the Bologna Declaration, which has the goal of developing a European Higher Education Area by 2010. One of the principal architects of the Bologna Process, Volker Gehmlich, led the workshop.

"We are at the very beginning, and really appreciate the expert advice," said Vlado Timovski, a professor from the Pedagogical Faculty in Skopje. "We are excited about being a part of the Bologna Process because we feel it will improve the quality of study available to Macedonian students."

The goals defined in the Bologna Process include the adoption of a comparable degree system with three main cycles, aimed at facilitating movement between countries. This in turn is a condition for achieving the goal of increased mobility for students and academic and administrative staff in higher education.

The workshop is part of USAID's Creative Teaching and Learning project implemented by the Foundation Open Society Institute in Macedonia (FOSIM).

NOTES TO EDITORS:

The American people, through USAID, have invested more than \$400 million in Macedonia since 1993. More than 30 projects worth \$35 million a year are currently being implemented. These projects are designed to support Macedonia's transition to a free market-based, multi-ethnic democracy. They include initiatives to accelerate economic growth, develop democratic institutions, and educate citizens for a modern economy. USAID provides economic and humanitarian assistance in more than 100 countries. For more information please visit <http://macedonia.usaid.gov>

In 1999, the ministers of education of 29 countries and university leaders from the whole of Europe met to discuss the future development of higher education in Europe. The post-summit

Bologna Declaration issued by the ministers expressed the goal of developing a European Higher Education Area by 2010. This development process is known as the Bologna Process. The promotion of quality assurance and increased inter-institutional cooperation is an objective.

This workshop was funded through USAID's Creative Teaching and Learning Project (CTL) which is implemented by Foundation Open Society Institute Macedonia (FOSIM). Since 2002, CTL has introduced student-centered teaching methods, established media labs in 45 primary and 18 secondary schools with new computers and internet connectivity; introduced new theories of whole-school improvement and extra-curricular activities such as debate and student government. In 2005, CTL expanded to pre-service teacher training institutes to insure that future teachers start their jobs prepared with student-centered teaching methods and strong IT skills. FOSIM's mission is the internal integration of Macedonia as a prerequisite for EU integration.